

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

A. Pending claims.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-20, and 22-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 5, 12, and 21. Claims 5, 12, and 21 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

The present "after final" amendment is proper in that it: cancels claims; does not require any further search or consideration; and clearly places the case in condition for allowance by amending the claims in a manner suggested by the examiner.

B. The Allowability of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-20, and 22-23 of the present invention were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen, "SP-to-SP Service Ordering Specification and Its Implementation" (herein, "Chen") in view of U.S. Patent 5,847,751 issued to Safadi (herein, "Safadi").

Claims 5, 12, and 21 were rejected as being unclear under 35 U.S.C. §112 due to the use of "adapted to" language, but were otherwise indicated as allowable in paragraph no. 6 of the Final Office Action.

By the present amendment, Applicants have incorporated the claim limitations of canceled claims 5, 12, and 21 into respective independent claims 1, 8, and 15. In doing so, Applicants have further eliminated the "adapted to determine" language that was previously objected to by the examiner and substituted it with the "said optimizing algorithm determining" language suggested in paragraph no. 3 of the Final Office Action.

Since the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a design management component comprising an optimizing algorithm determining an origin of supply of the sub-model components, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above information and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the current rejections. Applicant submits that based on

the foregoing, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-20, and 22-23 in their present form are allowable over the cited prior art, and Applicant further requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should any further questions arise concerning this application or in the event the above amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the examiner and the examiner's supervisor prior to any new office action relating to the present Application. Attorney for the Applicant may be reached at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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